



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/378,208	08/20/1999	LARRY A. NICKUM	98-1170	8847

7590 03/12/2003

SEAN PATRICK SUITER
SUITER & ASSOCIATES PC
14301 FNB PKWY
SUITE 220
OMAHA, NE 68154

EXAMINER

LUU, SY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/378,208

Applicant(s)

NICKUM, LARRY A.

Examiner

Sy D Luu

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2002 and 30 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8-18,21-32,35-46,49-56 and 59-74 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8-18,21-32,35-46,49-56 and 59-74 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendments A and B, filed 10/17/02 and 12/30/02 respectively.
2. Claims 1-74 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, 27, 41 and 55 are independent claims. In the Amendments A and B, claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 27, 35, 41, 49, 55 and 59 were amended, claims 6-7, 19-20, 33-34, 47-48 and 57-58 were cancelled, and claims 17-20 were added. This action is made Non-Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-5, 8-18, 21-32, 35-46, 49-56, 59, 61-62, 64-65, 67-68, 70-71 and 73-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matik et al. ("Matik", US # 6,023,701) in view of Brown et al ("Brown-1", US 6,356,908) and Brown et al ("Brown-2", US 6,278,448 B1)

Per claims 1 and 62, Matik teaches a method for advanced network viewing, comprising: accessing a first site, querying at least one of a link and a second site linked to said first site, wherein the linked second site is a web page included within the first site (col. 2, lines 27-30); and generating and communicating a listing of hyperlinks of linked sites for presentation to the user (col. 2, lines 27-40). Although Matik's hyperlinks of linked sites already contain information about the linked sites (i.e. labels or titles of the hyperlinks, e.g. www.ucberkeley.edu

Art Unit: 2174

or www.washingtonpost.com) that are informative enough to users so that such a representation of information are interpretable to be previews of the linked sites, Brown-1 is used to illustrate a clearer representation method for enabling a user to preview the linked sites. Brown-1 teaches a method for presenting content from a web page in a distributed database, wherein the page has a plurality of links to linked pages, and a set of thumbnail images of the linked pages in the database is presented to the user (fig. 8; col. 2, lines 13-19). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Brown-1's teaching with Matik in order to provide users with a preview tool which would enable them to make more informed decisions about which links to follow. While the method of Matik and Brown-1 teaches the step of storing the representation and updating the representation by at least one of the linked second site and the first site (Brown-1, col. 6, lines 17-26), Matik and Brown-1 do not disclose the updating to take place periodically and the representation to be a stored representation. Brown-2 discloses a method for storing and displaying website representations, wherein the stored representations are periodically updated (col. 1, lines 30-34). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Brown-2's teaching with the method of Matik and Brown-1 in order to enhance the preview tool with constantly up-to-date/refreshed information of the linked sources or webpages.

Per claims 2-3, Matik teaches the querying step to include limiting the scope of the query by including a defined limitation, wherein the limiting step to include at least one of a hierarchy and number of links (fig. 4, col. 6, lines 45-56).

Per claims 4-5, Brown-1 teaches the generating step to include forming a thumbnail representation of the linked second site, wherein the thumbnail representation is formed by taking a snapshot of the linked second site (col. 2, lines 17-20).

Per claim 8, the method of Matik, Brown-1 and Brown-2 does not disclose the updating step to be performed during idle time. Official Notice is given that the step of updating periodically information such as webpages related to a website during idle time in a networks environment is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine this feature with the method of Matik, Brown-1 and Brown-2 so as to improve performance on displaying the representations when retrievals are requested, i.e. retrievals of the representations would take less time.

Per claim 9, Matik teaches the communicating step to include displaying the representation in a separate window (fig. 5), as well as Brown-1 (fig. 14).

Per claims 10-11, Brown-1 teaches the communicating step to include displaying the representation as part of display of the first site so that the representation may be viewed as a component part of the first site, wherein the representation is displayed proximally to the link (fig 8; col. 6, lines 33-36).

Per claim 12, Brown-1 teaches the method to, if the linked second site is not accessible, generate a representation indicating that the linked second site is not accessible (col. 7, lines 44-46).

Per claim 13, Matik teaches the generating step to include correlating descriptive information with a representation (col. 5, lines 3-13), as well as Brown-1 (col. 6, lines 33-37).

Claims 14-18 and 21-26 are similar in scope to claims 1-5 and 8-13 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 27-28 combined are similar in scope to claim 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 29-32 and 35-40 are similar in scope to claims 2-5 and 8-13 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 41-46 and 49-54 are similar in scope to claims 27-32 and 35-40 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 55-56 and 59 are similar in scope to claims 27-28 and 35 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 61, Matik teaches the method to further comprising generating an additional representation of a site linked within the linked second site, the generated additional representation generated to indicate the linkage to the linked second site (col. 1, lines 41-45; *plurality of levels representations*).

Claims 64-65 are similar in scope to claims 61-62 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 67-68 are similar in scope to claims 61-62 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 70-71 are similar in scope to claims 61-62 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 73-74 are similar in scope to claims 61-62 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

5. Claims 60, 63, 66, 69 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matik et al. ("Matik", US # 6,023,701) in view of Brown et al ("Brown-1", US 6,356,908) and Brown et al ("Brown-2", US 6,278,448 B1) and further in view of Gennaro et al. (US 5,742,768).

As per claim 60, the representation of the method of Matik, Brown-1 and Brown-2 is not taught to be a pop-up menu. Gennaro teaches a method for providing/displaying a webpage having a pop-up menu which provides a user of the web browser with a plurality of links contained in the webpage. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Gennaro's teaching with the method of Matik, Brown-1 and Brown-2 in order to facilitate users with a convenience of using only one action to access to a plurality of links contained within a linked webpage.

Claims 63, 66, 69 and 72 are individually similar in scope to claim 60, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 14, 27, 41 and 55 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8, 21, 35, 49 and 59 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant requests for a reference supporting the position that it would have been obvious to update the links during idle time as claimed. Accordingly, the following two

Art Unit: 2174

references are used to illustrate and support the Examiner's position that the process of updating stored information being presented to a web browser during idle time is well known in the art:

(a) Nawaz et al. (US 5,959,621) at col. 9, lines 4-9; and

(b) Jones et al. (US 6,381,618 B1) at col. 4, line 54 – col. 5, line 3.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nawaz et al. (US 5,959,621)

Jones et al. (US 6,381,618 B1)

Sanford et al. (US 6,256,028 B1)

Himmel et al. (US 6,211,874 B1)

Tange (US 6,483,525 B1)

Inquires

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sy Luu whose telephone number is (703) 305-0409. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm (EST). The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:


(703) 746-7238 [After Final Communication]

(703) 746-7239 [Official Communication]

Art Unit: 2174

(703) 746-7240 [For status inquiries, Draft Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER